

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

**AMENDMENT DATE:** April 3, 2008  
**POSITION:** Oppose

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 1172  
**AUTHOR:** R. Dutton

### **BILL SUMMARY:** Wildlife: Game Management

Existing law establishes the non-dedicated account within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund (FGPF) that can be used for the general purposes of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to implement hunting, fishing, and related programs. There are also 25 dedicated accounts within the FGPF that must be separately accounted for and can only be used for specified purposes. This bill would create or modify dedicated accounts for elk, deer, antelope, and bear hunting tag revenue and create a dedicated account for the wildlife management areas hunting program.

### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

This bill would not adjust the amount of fees paid for a hunting license or various game tags. It would, however, require that revenue from specified permits and tags be deposited into dedicated accounts with restricted uses instead of the non-dedicated FGPF. To the extent that revenue is removed from the non-dedicated FGPF, it places pressure on the General Fund to support broad DFG functions such as enforcement and administration. These functions support a wide range of DFG programs, including hunting. The DFG estimates that the applicable amount related to elk is \$170,000, \$2 million for wildlife management areas, \$4.1 million for deer, \$750,000 for bear, and about \$10,000 for antelope. This would move a total of \$7 million from the non-dedicated account to dedicated accounts. The creation of dedicated accounts also increases the complexity of the DFG's fiscal administration which increases the likelihood that not all funds will be appropriately managed.

### **COMMENTS**

Finance opposes this bill because it would result in a significant General Fund cost pressure and would complicate the DFG's fiscal management and reduce flexibility in administering hunting programs.

This bill would establish dedicated accounts for elk, deer, antelope, bear, and wildlife management areas. The revenue from tags that would be deposited into these accounts would be restricted to use for habitat improvements and other benefits to the species, and to improve hunting opportunities. Fish and Game Commission approval would be required before any funds could be expended. Aside from an allowance in the wildlife management area account to use funds for related administrative purposes on department owned or operated land such as a hunting program, the focus of the dedicated accounts is on projects. Consequently, the use of funds for enforcement and general administrative functions that support these programs could be deemed an unallowable use of the funds. Furthermore, these restrictions would limit the ability of the DFG to administer its programs in the most efficient manner and unnecessarily complicate their already complex fiscal management system.

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Analyst/Principal (0634) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

<b>BILL ANALYSIS</b>	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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**BILL NUMBER**

SB 1172

		SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
Code/Department		LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue		CO	PROP					Fund		
Type		RV	98	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	Code
3600/Dept FishGam		SO	No	----- See Fiscal Summary -----						0200
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>									
0200	Fish and Game Preservation Fund									